

Wycombe strike called off 'for sake of club'

Evening Post Sports Reporter

THE THREATENED strike by Wycombe Wanderers footballers over the resignation of manager-coach Barry Darvill is over. Last night Darvill withdrew his notice until the end of the season — "for the sake of the club."

The whole first team had said they would walk out if Darvill went. The differences between Darvill and the club arose over team selection. Darvill wanted full control and the club insisted on a match committee having a say.

Even though they had rejected his demand for full control Darvill withdrew his notice. He said last night: "In the interests of the club we have settled our differences. They put the ball in my court. If I had gone then the players would have gone, and I did not want to drag the club down."

"I explained to the players what I had done and they have promised me their full support for the rest of the season."

Review later

Club secretary Bill Hayter said this morning: "Barry Darvill has placed the club before his own individual ideas. He has decided to carry on until the end of the season when the whole matter will be reviewed."

"But he still feels that to get the best result the coach should have full powers of selection of senior players."

The incident blew up on the Tuesday after Christmas when Darvill was overruled by the committee on the selection of the side to play Oxford City.

Darvill named his regular side with Peter Royston at left-back. The committee re-

placed Royston with youngster Peter Eyres — and Darvill handed in his notice.

With the matter resting uneasily the team has been picked for Saturday's game at Barking. Royston is back in the side.

Team threatens walk-out after manager quits

THE WHOLE of Wycombe Wanderers' first team has threatened to walk out if the club's general committee does not agree to team manager Barry Darvill selecting the team each week.

Darvill handed in his resignation at the weekend after being told that the club's match committee was to pick the team in future.

The players have told the club: "If Barry goes we go." They threatened to walk out before the game with Corinthian Casuals on Saturday, but Darvill persuaded them to stay — and play.

They won 1-0 with a penalty

No walk-out at Wycombe

By MICHAEL MELANIPHY

A THREATENED walkout by the Wycombe Wanderers first team was called off last night after the players met coach Barry Darvill, whose resignation led to the protest.

Darvill withdrew his resignation, though the Wycombe committee had rejected his demand for full control of team selection.

After the meeting Darvill said: "I explained to the players what I had done and they have promised me their full support for the rest of the season."

Wycombe decided on Monday to retain their four-man selection committee. It seemed then that the Isthmian League amateurs would lose their first-team players, all of whom were willing to resign in support of Darvill.

But Darvill backed down to keep the team together, and Wycombe chairman, Jack Smethurst, said: "I am glad to say our full team will play at Barking on Saturday. The incident is closed and I think everyone is happy again."

goal from ex-international centre-forward Paul Bates.

The testing time will come tonight when a full meeting of the club's general committee will decide whether or not to give Darvill full selection powers — or risk losing its whole first team who are 100 per cent behind their manager.

Dressing-room row

Trouble began last Tuesday when Darvill picked his regular first team to play at Oxford City. In a dressing-room row before the game the committee stepped in and dropped ex-Wokingham left-back Peter Royston, and put youngster Peter Eyres in his place.

Darvill told the committee he either selected his side himself or left. He later handed in his notice.

Wycombe secretary Bill Hayter commented yesterday: "We have never had any trouble like this since the club was founded in 1884. If the first team walks out over this matter we shall just have to choose the side from our 30 reserves."

But it is expected that many of the reserves will also be behind Darvill. Several of them followed him from Oxford City, where he was in charge of the reserve team, when he went to Wycombe two years ago.